



LET US BE YOUR GUIDE

Exploring TxDOT's Historical Resources



WHO IS THE ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS DIVISION?

- TxDOT historians and archeologists
- Run a variety of programs:
 - Beyond the Road Campaign
 - Archeology and History
 - Texas Historic Bridges
 - Storm Water Programs
 - Ozone Action Days
 - Mitigation Banks
 - Drive Clean Texas



TYPES OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- Digital
 - Websites
 - Maps
 - Photographs
 - Historic contexts
 - Road plans
- Paper Files
 - Bridges
 - Roadside parks
 - Depression-era roads and bridges
 - Works Progress Administration Records



TYPES OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- Historic Road Infrastructure of Texas Multiple Property Nominations
- Story Maps
- Historic American Engineering Record Documentation
- Photo Library
- *Texas Highways* Magazine Archives
- Archeology Library

...and more!

DIGITAL RESOURCES - Websites

1. TxDOT home page: www.txdot.gov

2. Environmental Affairs Division:
<https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/environmental.html>

Other Resources:

Texas Historical Commission

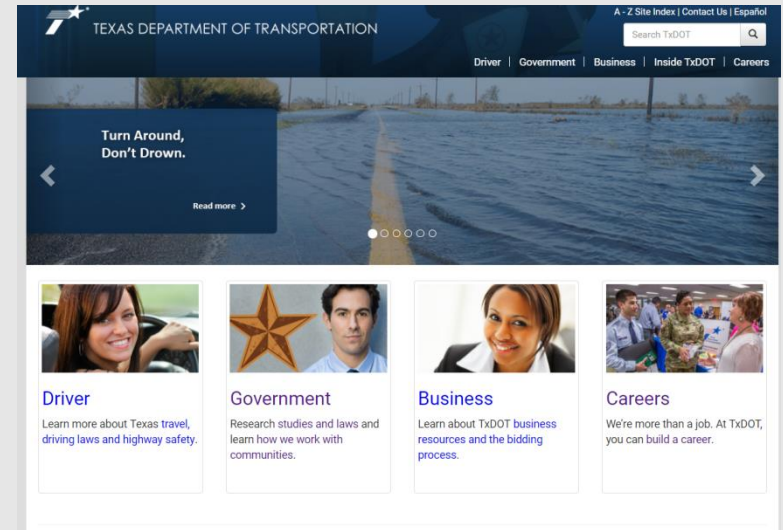
<http://www.thc.texas.gov/>

Library of Congress

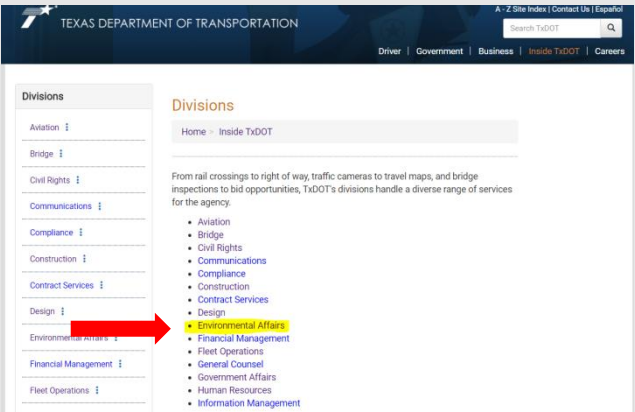
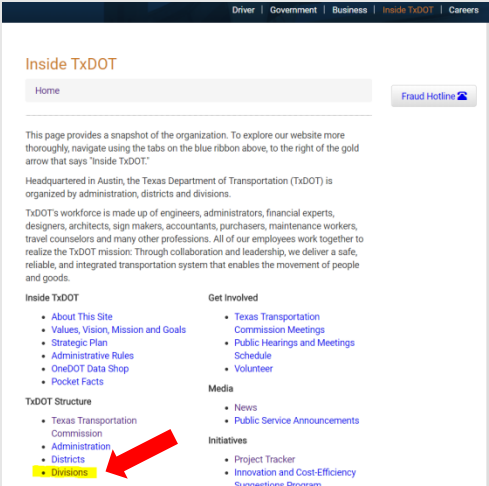
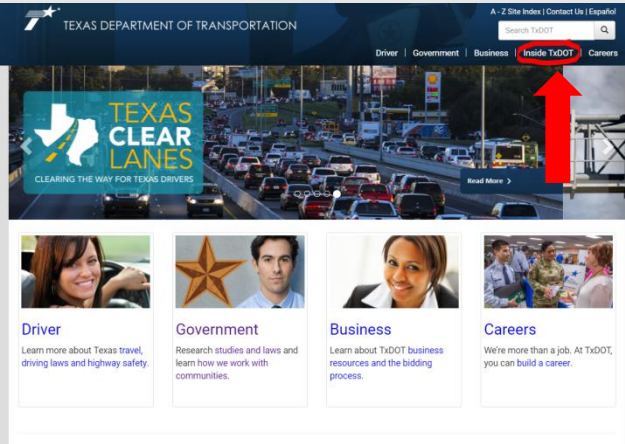
<https://www.loc.gov/>

Texas State Library and Archives

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/>



DIGITAL RESOURCES - Websites



DIGITAL RESOURCES – Maps, THO and GLO

1. Texas General Land Office:

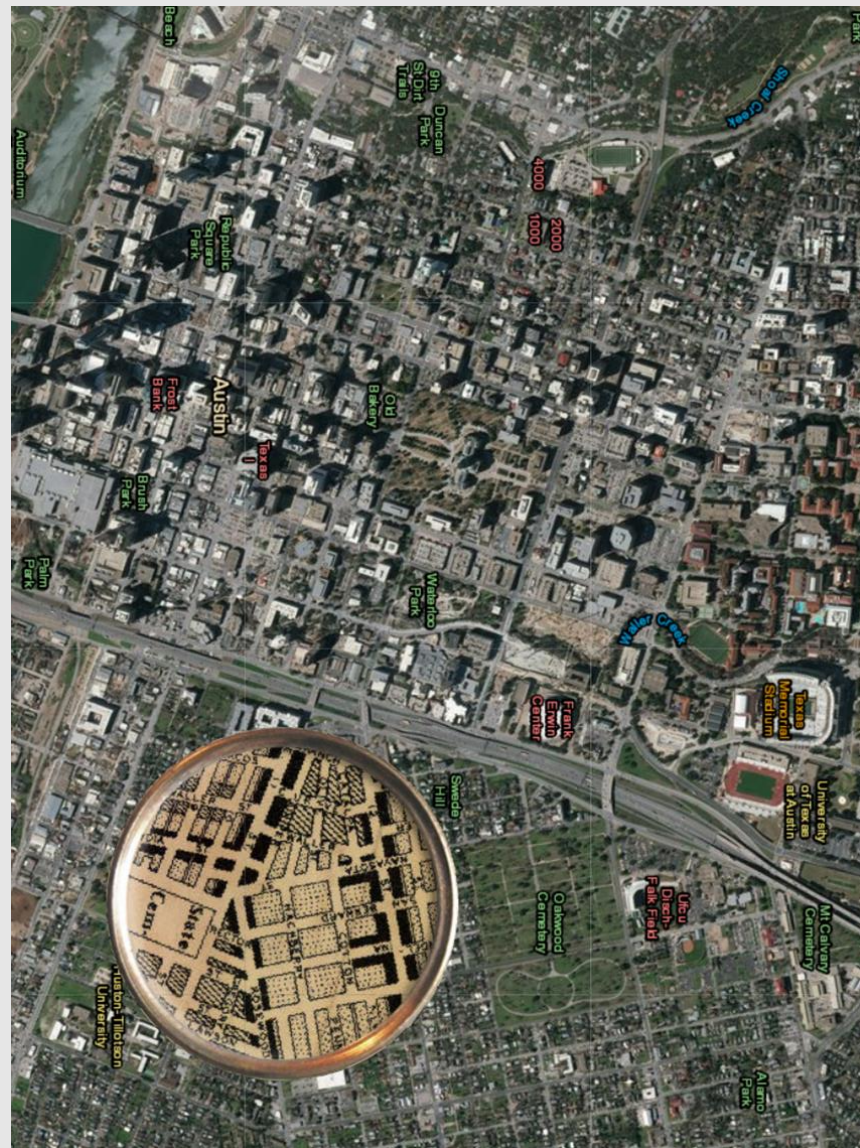
<http://www.glo.texas.gov/land/land-management/gis/index.html>

- Based on historical maps, research, and data
- GIS and GPS systems
- Interactive maps and map layering

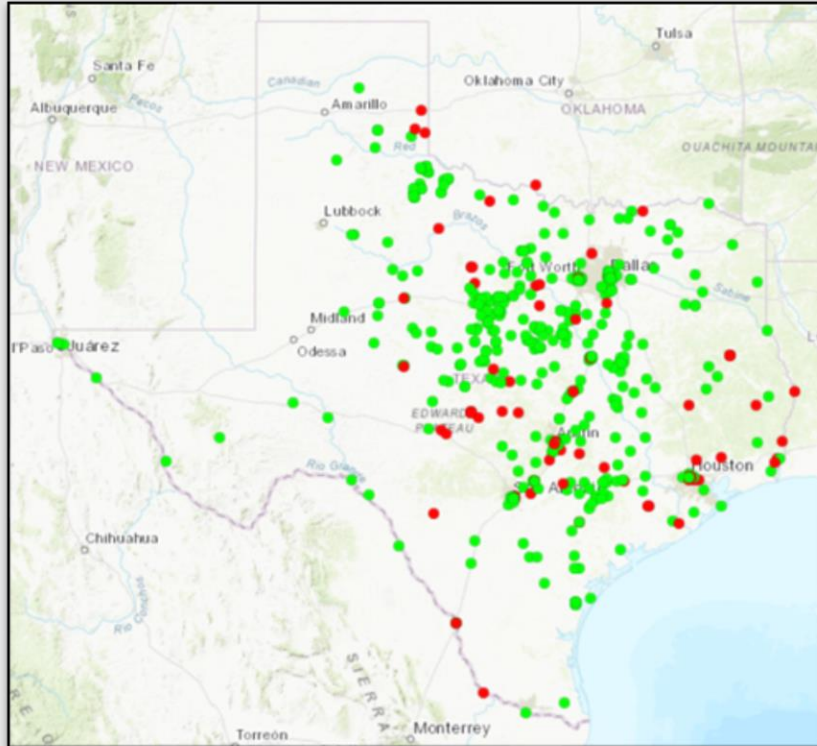
2. Texas Historic Overlay

<https://tnris.org/data-catalog/entry/txdot-texas-historic-overlay/>

- GIS-based resource
- Guide to archeological and cultural sites
- Created to provide information for transportation project planning



DIGITAL RESOURCES – Maps, Historic Bridges



What?

Interactive map of eligible and listed NRHP bridges.

Why?

Created to reference data of historically significant, or already examined, bridges in Texas.

Where?

[Texas Historic Bridges](#)



Keyword "Maps"
at www.txdot.gov
for more
information!

DIGITAL RESOURCES - Photo Library

- Free to the public
- We transfer images digitally
- Request images by email or phone
- Photos are not available online, so make an appointment to visit the lab:
<https://www.txdot.gov/contact-us/form.html?id=media-photo-email>



DIGITAL RESOURCES – Historic Contexts

What?

A historic context gives you a general overview about a topic during a specific time period in a particular place.

Who?

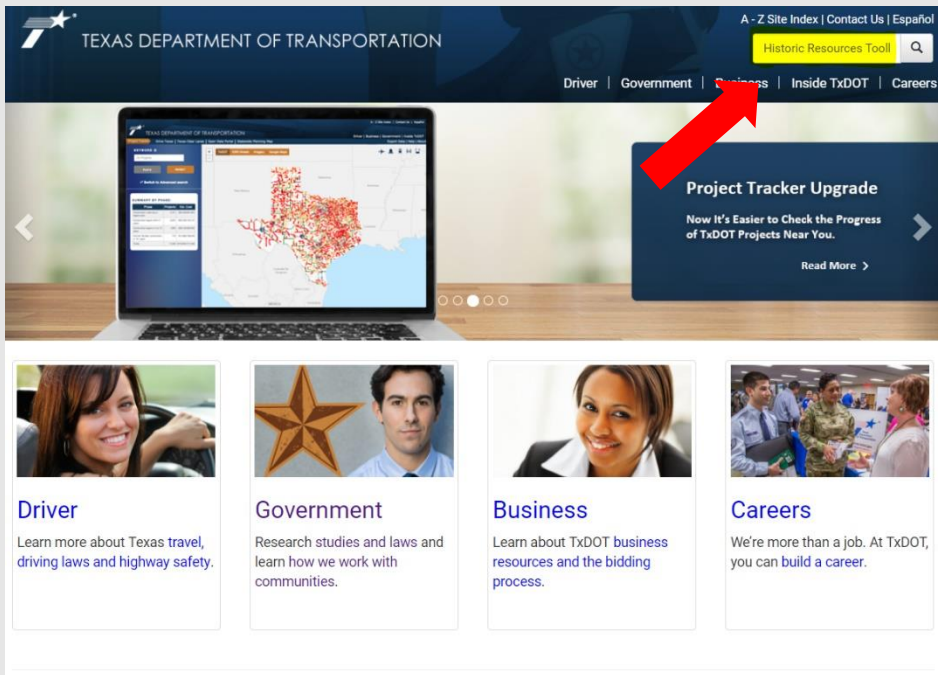
Educators, Teachers, Museum Specialists, Interested Researchers, You!

Topics?

- [Gas Stations](#)
- [Industrial Properties](#)
- [Irrigation in Lower Rio Grande Valley](#)
- [Historic Motels, 1950-1970](#)
- [South Texas Ranching](#)
- [Texas Aviation](#)
- [Roadside Parks](#)
- [Texas Adobe](#)
- [Historic Agricultural Processing Facilities](#)
- [Central Texas Agriculture](#)
- [Agricultural Landscape Development Along US 277](#)



DIGITAL RESOURCES – Historic Contexts



1. Visit our website: www.txdot.gov
2. In the upper right hand corner, search “Historic Resources Toolkit”
3. Select the first option

DIGITAL RESOURCES – Historic Road Infrastructure

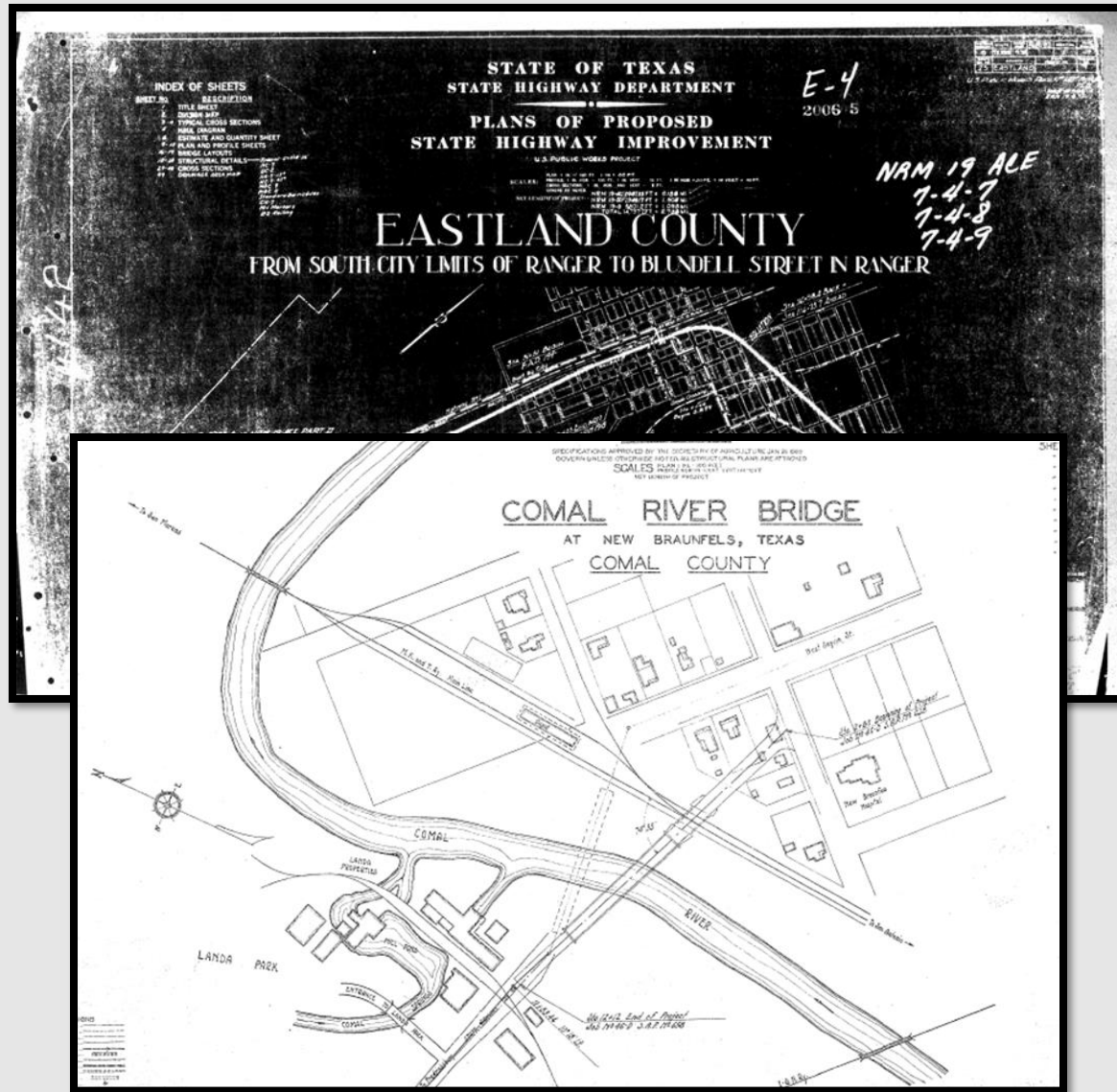


DIGITAL RESOURCES – Road Plans

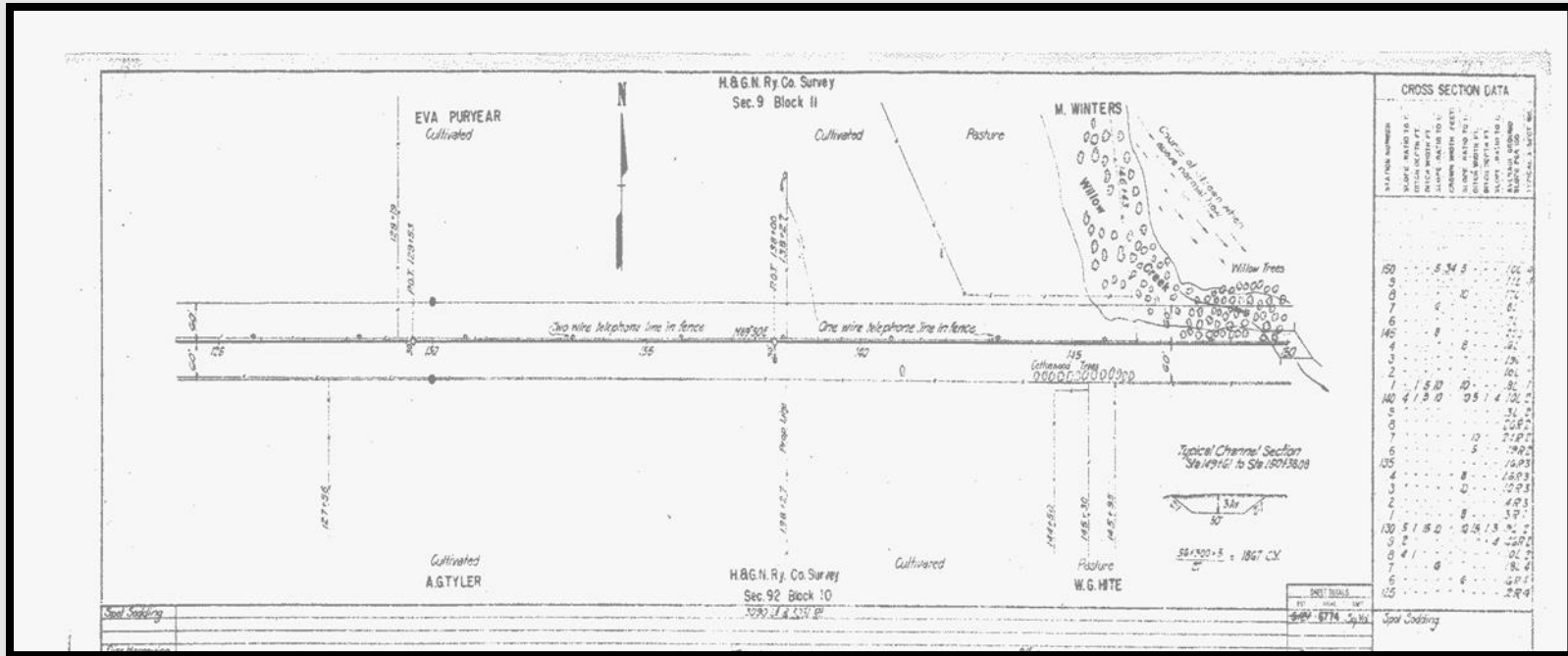
What?

Maps showing:

- Landscaping
- Names of adjacent owners
- Building outlines and uses
- Width of road
- Materials of road
- Historic maps



DIGITAL RESOURCES – Road Plans



Plan Sets:

- Function like Sanborns
- Provide larger, general maps of the area
- Drainage details
- Realignments and bypass jobs
- Land use
- Ownership

Where?

Contact at TxDOT historian!

PAPER FILES – Archeology

What?

Archeology project files

- Includes cemeteries, project sites, and impact evaluations
- Archeology Magazines
- Provides information about archeological excavations and findings

Where?

TxDOT Archives –
contact a TxDOT
historian or
archeologist for more
information!



PAPER FILES – Historic Bridges, Roadside Parks, Depression-Era



What?

- History project files
- National Register of Historic Places evaluations
- Texas Historic Overlay project files
- Documented mitigation efforts
- Historic bridge research and construction files
 - Includes some images and original blueprints

Where?

Contact a TxDOT historian for a digital copy of our records!

Why?

These records show:

- Lead Architects
- Past and Current bridge and road conditions
- Pictures
- Historic context on the area
- Resulting construction projects
- Efforts to reduce the impact of TxDOT projects

PAPER FILES – Works Progress Administration Records

Who?

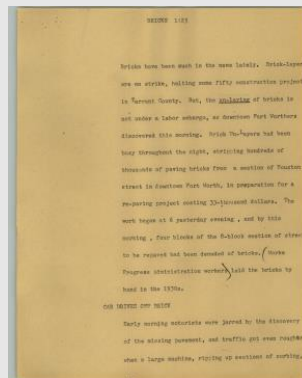
The WPA was created as a New Deal program in 1935. It employed many people to work on public works projects – like constructing buildings, roads, parks, and bridges.

What?
















Paper records include information about bridges, roads, and parks built by the WPA

Where?

Contact a TxDOT historian for a digital copy




OTHER RESOURCES – Kids and Publications

| Educational | | |
|---|--------|---|
| Title | Format | |
| Make More Words Puzzle One | |  |
| Make More Words Puzzle Two | |  |
| Parts of a Bicycle | |  |
| Quick Look TX | |  |
| Texas State Symbols | |  |
| Traffic Signs | |  |
| Ways to Get Around | |  |
| Environmental | | |
| Order copies of select publications from TxDOT's Environmental Affairs Division | | |
| Title | Format | |
| Texas Bats | |  |
| A Guide to Depression Era Roadside Parks in Texas | |  |
| Endangered Species and TxDOT | |  |
| Paleoindian Archeology Across the Lone Star State | |  |
| Rocks and Fossils of Texas | |  |
| Tex and Dot's Recycle Poster | |  |
| Tex and Dot's Air Quality Coloring and Activity Book | |  |
| Tex and Dot's Water Quality Coloring and Activity Book | |  |

Keyword: “Kid’s Publications”

We are always adding new publications, so remember to check back often!

TEXAS BATS



Beyond The Road
TxDOT Environmental Affairs Division

Since 1917, the highway department has built roads shaped around the state's scenic splendor and cultural heritage. Engineers used innovative "journals" for building beautiful bridges, using scenic maps and creating scenic routes. Today, the Environmental Affairs Division at TxDOT helps care for the state's natural and cultural resources in tandem with this vision.

How did it start?

Bats' use of bridges as roosts came to TxDOT's attention in 1980 when a colony of Brazilian free-tailed bats roosted into the concrete beneath the newly reconstructed Congress Avenue Bridge in Austin. At the time, there were many unanswered questions about the bats' impact on the structural integrity of the bridge and potential health risks to the public.

A joint investigation led by TxDOT engineer Mark Blawieck and Mark Torkle, founder of Bat Conservation International and current head of Muley Torkle's Bat Conservation, found that bridges and culverts are among the best roost sites for a number of bat species.

Re-learning Time

- Do not drive headlights or flip camera flashes into the faces of roosting bats; often bats have flown past it in sleep in the dark.
- Lead roosters may cause bats to delay their emergence, spreading the virus.
- Do not throw objects at flying or roosting bats.
- Give emerging bats the right of way.
- Bats roost on the ground may be sick or injured. Please do not touch them.

TxDOT's Bat Program


Equipped with information on bats' roosting preferences, TxDOT designs and constructs bridges and culverts where it is humane and economical.

TxDOT's bridge engineers and biologists work together to evaluate and design bridges and culverts that can shelter as bat roosts. In areas where the presence of bats is not desirable, TxDOT biologists identify and humanely exclude bats from their bridge roosts. TxDOT works with the bats' roosting habits and their roosting sites to change bridge and other structures that will make the structures continue to be bat roosts.

Bat Facts!


- Mice bats are strong courtship.
- Bats drink "tea" daily "sipping" over water for quick trips.
- Bats are not blind. Echolocation is a replacement to their excellent vision.
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Foster Road Bridge
San Antonio




The Foster Road Bridge over Loop 1604 in San Antonio offers amazing opportunities for Brazilian free-tailed bats. The bats roost in concrete crevices on the underside of the bridge. They first arrive in late March and are slowly driven by the end of November. During the last decade, young and early season populations have increased from 100,000 to 100,000 bats. Bat roosts have increased from 100,000 to 100,000 bats. Bat roosts have increased from 100,000 to 100,000 bats.

Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge
Downtown Austin




The Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge, located in the heart of downtown Austin, hosts one of the largest urban bat colonies in the world, estimated at 1.5 million bats. It is a nationally recognized and historic landmark. The bridge is a historic landmark and hosts one of the largest urban bat colonies in the world.

I-35 Bridge at Lampasas River
Lampasas




A large roosting colony of Brazilian free-tailed bats was discovered under the I-35 bridge over the Lampasas River in Bell County near Lampasas. When it was time to replace the bridge, TxDOT estimated the number of bats using the bridge. The amount of roosting habitat the existing bridge offered, as well as the replacement where the bats roosted. Using the information, TxDOT placed specially designed bat boxes on the new bridge, replacing the habitat that the old bridge offered. The bats roosted the boxes shortly after they were installed. During opening operations are available from the Park located off Main Street in downtown Lampasas, look northwest to the bridge over I-35.

McNeil Overpass at I-35
Round Rock



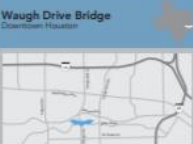
Round Rock, the town of the North American Shoresmark Bat Observation deck, which offers educational, scenic, and volunteer bat education on weekend evenings. Bat roosts are located on the bridge over the McNeil Overpass at I-35. Bat roosts are located on the bridge over the McNeil Overpass at I-35.

Camden Street Bridge
San Antonio River Walk



A large colony of Brazilian free-tailed bats is present year-round at the bridge over the San Antonio River at Camden Street. Bat roosts are located on the bridge over the Camden Street at I-35. Bat roosts are located on the bridge over the Camden Street at I-35.

Waugh Drive Bridge
Downtown Houston




Waugh Drive Bridge spans Buffalo Bayou, less than two miles east of downtown Houston. The estimated 250,000 Brazilian free-tailed bats call the bridge home. Signs emerging at sunset, the bats usually fly over the bridge before departing.

With the majority of bats at other bridges and caves roosts in Mexico each winter, many of the Waugh Drive Bridge bats do not. Experts think these bats may make up the largest colony of Brazilian free-tailed bats that roosts in Texas all year-round.

In 2010, a bat observation deck was installed at Buffalo Bayou Park, with free parking at Buffalo Park. The park gave free bat observations Thursday through Saturday during sunset.

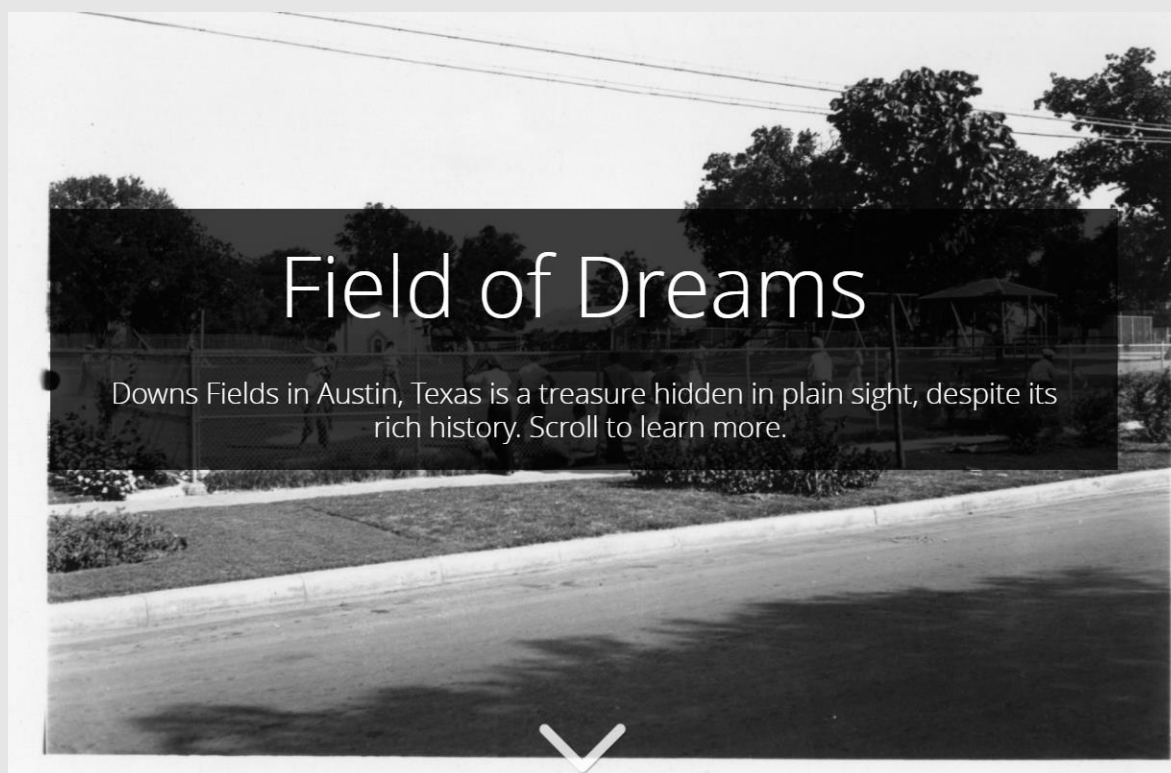
"Bat Chirp" view at the bridge on Friday nights from March through October. Bat roosts are located on the bridge over the Waugh Drive Bridge. Bat roosts are located on the bridge over the Waugh Drive Bridge.

Los Olmos Bridge
Brownsville



A large colony of Brazilian free-tailed bats is present year-round at the bridge over the Rio Grande at Los Olmos. Bat roosts are located on the bridge over the Los Olmos at I-35. Bat roosts are located on the bridge over the Los Olmos at I-35.

OTHER RESOURCES – Story Maps



What?

Interactive tool with:

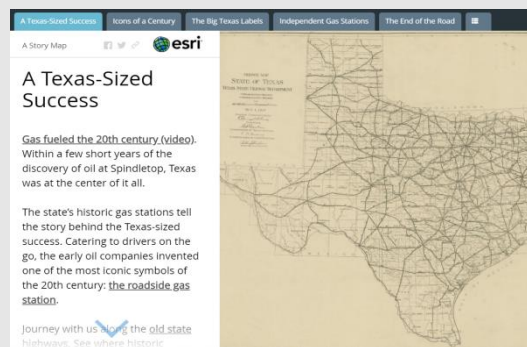
- Pictures
- Video links
- Maps
- Historic stories

Topics?

- Historic Gas Stations
- Historic Highways
- Roadside Discoveries
- Segregated Austin
- Mammoth Watch 2018

Where?

Keyword: “Beyond the Road”



Contact Us!



Send inquiries to:

Texas Department of Transportation
Environmental Affairs Division
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701

512.416.3001

or by email: <https://www.txdot.gov/contact-us/form.html?id=env-email>